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Construction of Soda Plant Progresses

Vecherni Novini, Sofia, 11 Oct 1951

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CONSTRUCTION OF SODA PLANT PROGRESSES -- Sofia, Vecherni Novini,  
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Bulgaria is one of the few countries in the world in which favorable conditions exist for the production of different kinds of soda compounds. The salts wells at Provadiya provide the most important raw material for the production of soda compounds in a solution which is almost right for the production process. Near the wells are found large beds of first grade limestone which provide the second necessary raw material for the production of soda.

In spite of all this, Bulgaria has had to pay billions of leva in foreign currency up to now for importing caustic soda, calcined soda, sodium carbonate and all the other derivatives of these two basic products -- salt and limestone. The Bulgarian bourgeois governments of the years before 9 September felt that the production of these chemicals, so very important for the Bulgarian national economy, should remain a monopoly of the "Solvay" world trust and that it would have been criminal to reduce its profits by Bulgaria's stopping the importation of soda compounds from abroad.

But times have changed. Over the Bulgarian horizon rose the bright star of socialism and everything which in the past was considered inaccessible and unattainable for the Bulgarian people started to become a reality.

The Bulgarian Soda Plant is under construction. It will be completed at the end of the first 5-Year Plan, in 1953, and will provide an enormous boost to the development of the entire Bulgarian chemical industry and to the glass, textile, soap,

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seed-oil, cellulose, metallurgical and many other industries.

On what were formerly bare fields there now rise higher and higher the buildings of this giant plant. It will have 4 enormous installations. From a distance one can already see the installation for calcinated soda, which will have a height of 46 meters -- almost as high as a 15 story building. Two solid two-story buildings have already been erected at the construction site and in these the administrations of the plant and the "Sovbolstroy" Construction Enterprise are housed; hygienic dwellings for 200 workers, a canteen, a kitchen, baths, etc. have been completed. There are also playgrounds for volleyball, basket ball and soccer, where the workers on the construction project engage in organized physical-culture activity.

The basic raw materials necessary for the production of the different kinds of soda compounds are limestone, salt and electric power. The limestone will be taken from the large beds which are 6 kilometers from the plant. A solid cableway will connect the plant with the limestone beds. The long straight bed of the cableway already shows where the poles will be set and where the conveyor buckets carrying their valuable load will travel.

The salt will come by itself. The waters of the Provadiya salt wells will be captured and conducted through a pipe which will convey this extremely important product to the plant in a solution almost ready for the production process.

Electricity will be generated at the site of the plant itself. The most turbulent of the sources of the Devnya river, namely "Ludetinata" will have its waters harnessed and conducted through a canal to the plant where these turbulent waters will turn the turbines of hydro-electric power plant. This will pro-

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duce the necessary power for the plant and will supply electricity to the new city of 5,000 inhabitants which will spring up at a distance of 6 kilometers from the plant.

The construction of the plant is in full swing. The imposing building of the machine-repair shop nears completion. The large warehouse of this shop is already completed and roofed with asbestos-cement tiles obtained from Dimitrovgrad.

If one should ask the workers what the plant will be like, they would be likely to answer as follows:

"We will build a beautiful plant, perhaps more beautiful than the "Stalin" Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant." They have been working on the "Stalin" Plant and know what has gone on there; they talk like specialists in large constructions. They not only talk but also work like first-class specialists. The "Nikola Vaptsarov" Brigade turns out 40 percent more work than required, turns out only first-class work and has reduced the defective work to zero. For that reason it received the transferable red banner of the "Sovbolstroy" Administration in the 9 September competition. Not only the fitters of the "Nikola Vaptsarov" Brigade but all the other members of the brigade, such as diggers, masons and coffer builders have given excellent examples of meritoriously fulfilled labor duty. Every member of that brigade is like a soldier on watch on his job. All of them are aware of the enormous importance of the plant to the national economy and are hurrying to speed up its completion.

The giant new plant, near which a completed workers' city will spring up, is entirely the result of Bulgarian-Soviet friendship. The plant is being built with loans granted to Bulgaria in 1948 by the enormous country where socialism has been established.

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The plans for the plant were drawn in USSR, the machines for it were built there, too, and the direction of the construction and the mounting of machines is entrusted to tried Soviet specialists.

The first Five-Year-Plan must lay the foundations of socialism in Bulgaria. The Soda Plant will be one of the cornerstones in the solid foundations on which the eternal structure of the happy future of the Bulgarian people will rise, unperturbed by any storms.